

Comments of Center for Successful Parenting in Response to FCC
Notice of Inquiry in the Matter of Violent Television Programming
and Its Impact on Children
September 15, 2004

The Center for Successful Parenting (CSP) is concerned about the effects of media violence on children. It is dedicated to making parents and caregivers aware of this and has sponsored many information and educational programs across the United States on this subject.

Since the year 2000 we have directly sponsored academic research through the Indiana University School of Medicine in order to generate objective data concerning the effects of violent media on the development of children and adolescents. This research has focused on the relationship and association between the amount of media violence exposure and its effect on pre-frontal cortical brain function as well as aggressive behavior. The accrued data and findings are based on functional brain activity utilizing state of the art functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI brain mapping).

Currently, the research is ongoing. It is being conducted in three distinct phases. The first phase has been completed with the results scheduled for publication. The data accumulation from the second phase has just been completed. The third phase has been designed and we anticipate beginning data accumulation for this part of the study in October of 2004.

All phases are related to the effects of viewing violent programming and are longitudinal in nature. All phases have included two sub-groups. The first group is individuals with previously diagnosed Disruptive Behavior Disorder (DBD). The second group is composed of normal individuals serving as a control group. Comparison between participants in each of the groups has been made on an age, gender, and I.Q. basis.

A statistically valid Media Violence Exposure Index (MVEI) (1 - Kronenberger et al) has been generated by the investigators. In Phase I, the investigators have conclusively demonstrated an association between high media violence exposure and reduced pre-frontal cortical function in both groups. Also of great significance is the fact that those individuals within the control group who have a high MVEI have demonstrated fMRI findings quite similar to those of the participants in the DBD group (2 - Mathews et al). Since the pre-frontal cortex is involved in learning, behavior modification and thought processing the magnitude of the implications are extensive as far as the negative effects of experiencing exposure to violent media.

1 William G. Kronenberger, Vincent P. Mathews, David W. Dunn, Yang Wang, Elisabeth A. Wood, Joelle J. Larsen, Mary E. Rembusch, Mark J. Lowe, Ann L. Giaque, and Joseph T. Lurito. Indiana University School of Medicine. Media Violence Exposure and Executive Functioning in Aggressive and Control Adolescents

2 Vincent P. Mathews, MD, William G. Kronenberger, PhD, Yang

Wang, MD, Joseph T. Lurito, MD, PhD, Mark J. Lowe, PhD, David W. Dunn, MD. Departments of Radiology and Psychiatry, Indiana University School of Medicine, Indianapolis, Indiana. Media Violence Exposure and Frontal Lobe Activation Measured by fMRI in Aggressive and Non-Aggressive Adolescents